



# Virginia Aviation

Published by the Virginia Department of Aviation



*MAY-JUNE 2008*

## New Terminal at Lawrenceville-Brunswick Airport

Earlier this spring, numerous officials from the County of Brunswick, the Town of Lawrenceville and the Department of Aviation celebrated the new terminal at Lawrenceville-Brunswick Airport with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This ceremony, attended by more than 30 individuals, was the culmination of a years worth of construction to replace the airport's previous terminal.



*Various officials assist with the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the new terminal at Lawrenceville-Brunswick Airport.*

That terminal, which was a log cabin style building, built in 1979, needed to be replaced after suffering severe termite damage through the years. Construction on the new \$352,500 terminal began in December 2006 and was completed in November 2007.

Funding for this terminal was provided by DOAV, the County of Brunswick and the Town of Lawrenceville.

Dignitaries in attendance included The Honorable Welton Tyler, Chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors; The Honorable Keith W. Clarke, Mayor of the Town of Lawrenceville; The Honorable Barbara Jarrett Drummond, Vice-Chair of the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors; and Randall Burdette, Director of the Virginia Department of Aviation.

Lawrenceville-Brunswick Airport positively impacts the local community through its support of search and rescue operations, emergency medical aviation, aerial inspections, recreational aviation, aerial photography and surveying, law enforcement activities, agricultural spraying, as well as serving various corporate and business activities.

## Virginia Aviation Board Allocates Funding to Two State Airports

At its first board meeting of the new year, the Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) approved tentative allocations totaling \$15,363 for two of the Commonwealth's 66 public use airports; Luray Caverns Airport (W45) in Luray and Accomack County Airport (MFV) in Melfa.

Luray Caverns Airport's allocation of \$10,263 will be used to acquire land for obstruction removal in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) policy, and Accomack County Airport's allocation of \$5,100 will be used for wetlands mitigation for T-Hangar development (\$3,900) and T-Hangar site preparation and taxiway design.

The VAB has also approved changing its meeting structure from bimonthly to quarterly.

Virginia Aviation is a bi-monthly publication produced by the Virginia Department of Aviation, Public Communications and Education Division in the interest of and for the promotion of aviation.

**Randall Burdette**  
Director  
Department of Aviation

**Cherry Evans**  
Director  
Public Communications and Education

**Jeff Baldwin**  
Editor

Please send material for publication to:  
Editor,  
Virginia Aviation newsletter  
5702  
Gulfstream Rd.  
Richmond, VA 23250  
or e-mail to:  
Jeff.Baldwin@doav.virginia.gov



## Department of Aviation Receives Grant to Continue Ambassadors Awards

The Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) is pleased to announce that the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society has received a \$10,000 grant from Heart of Virginia Aviation and Tecnam Aircraft. This grant will allow DOAV to continue providing rewards for its Virginia Aviation Ambassadors Program. The Ambassadors program recognition rewards had been suspended in February due to low aviation revenue collections.

The highly successful Virginia Aviation Ambassadors Program was established in 2005 to encourage pilots and the general public to visit Virginia's 66 public use airports, attend pilot safety seminars, and visit aviation museums. At each location or event, participants receive a stamp in an Aviation Passport.

Heart of Virginia Aviation is a full service fixed base operator, flight training center, charter operator and one stop aviation center located at the Hanover County Airport, just north of Richmond, Virginia and is the exclusive regional distributor for Tecnam Aircraft. For more information, please visit [www.flyhova.com](http://www.flyhova.com) and [www.tecnamaircraft.com](http://www.tecnamaircraft.com).

The Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society (VAHS) is a private, non-partisan, non-profit and tax exempt organization dedicated to the study, research, interpretation, and preservation of Virginia's aerospace heritage and sponsor of the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame. For more information, please visit [www.vahsonline.org](http://www.vahsonline.org).

Participants are encouraged to visit the Virginia Department of Aviation's website, [www.doav.virginia.gov](http://www.doav.virginia.gov) to receive the latest information regarding the program.

## Hampton Roads' Airmen Lose One of Their Own...a Tribute to Bill Backus

Hampton Roads Airmen recently lost one of their more colorful brethren with the passing of Bill Backus on January 26, 2008. Backus, founder and former president of Backus Aerial Photography, the area's premier aerial photography business for the last 40 years, succumbed to congestive heart failure.

Backus was known for his hospitality and his office was open to one and all.

He loved aviation, but he loved people more. He wanted to just sit and tell you stories and smile with you.

Backus, an electrician by trade, traded a Harley-Davidson for his first airplane and began taking pictures of homes and businesses in the Hampton Roads area and then selling them to pay for gas for his airplane as a way to pay for his passion to fly. Then, in 1968, Backus opened his business at Hampton Roads Executive Airport, where it is currently one of the oldest businesses on-site.

Backus was also a Navy Aircrew member on several different aircraft in various squadrons, including the S2-F Tracker in VS-72, the P3-C Orion in VP and the C-9B Skytrain in VR-56.

He was an auxiliary officer for the Portsmouth Police Department where he served in police cruisers, the marine unit, a detective and helicopter pilot. He was also a charter member and former commander of the Khedive Air Wing and flew 55 burned and/or crippled children to medical facilities in a single year.

Backus also was active with The Quiet Birdmen, Swift Association, the Experimental Aircraft Association and was a colonel in the Commemorative Air Force.

*This tribute was written by Doug Rogers and Gary Backus.*



*Gary Backus, his father Bill Backus, and company secretary Gale Watts.*

## Hampton Roads Executive Airport Continues its Growth

Hampton Roads Executive Airport has been extremely busy building, designing and planning various projects over the past few years.

These projects, which include a runway expansion, new terminal building, new T-hangars, new corporate hangars, an air freight complex and an aviation business park have increased the airport's usage and visibility in the region and has also positioned the airport to allow for continued growth to meet the demands of the Hampton Roads' population and industry boom.



*Hampton Roads Executive Airport's new T-hangars.*

The airport is currently completing its environmental mitigation piece for its runway expansion. This project, which will lengthen the runway from 4,000 to 5,350 feet, began back in 2001 with the acquisition of land. The airport received its environmental approval in June 2007, and the expansion project is expected to be completed within three years.

“The growth of the area deemed a longer runway essential to the success of the airport,” said Steve Fox, Principal Hampton Roads Executive Airport, “and this expansion will also mean a safer runway for takeoffs and landings.”

The airport recently submitted its new terminal design plans to the City of Chesapeake for approval and the hope is to begin construction in the fall of this year with completion planned for fall of 2009. This new terminal will include a pilot's lounge, passenger lobby, conference room as well as the airport's administrative offices.

An additional part of the airport's long-term growth plan was completed earlier this spring when the airport unveiled its 50 new oversized T-hangars. These hangars, featuring 14-ft. high insulated electric bi-fold doors, were built in two phases - the first phase of 20 hangars have all been rented and the second phase of 30 hangars will be available soon.

In January 2008, the airport completed construction on its six new corporate hangars and they are all rented at present time. These hangars offer more space to its occupants than traditional T-hangars.

Hampton Roads Executive Airport is also hoping to add two additional features to help it sustain its growth and to meet the needs of the community; an air freight complex and an aviation business park.

The site plan for the air freight complex has been approved and its design proposes a 40,000-sq. ft. warehouse style building that can be subdivided into four 10,000-sq. foot pieces if needed. Construction of this complex is scheduled to begin within a few months with a mid-2009 tentative completion date.

“A small scale air freight operation would be a perfect fit for our air freight complex,” said Fox.

There are also plans for an aviation business park to be built on an adjacent 200-acre parcel of airport land as part of a five-year plan. This aviation business park, which is currently in the initial study phase, would consist of two or more warehouses that could be leased out to aviation research, transportation or related businesses. Initial plans include a 325,000-sq. ft. building and a second building measuring 357,000-sq. feet.

Hampton Roads Executive Airport has also added seven other buildings in the last seven years and currently has 219 based planes. It is a public use, privately owned reliever airport that is centrally located in Hampton Roads at the intersection of I-64, I-664, I-264 and Route 58 and is home to 15 aviation related businesses.

For more information, please contact Peggy at Hamton Roads Executive Airport, 757-465-0260, or [www.hamptonroadsexecutiveairport.com](http://www.hamptonroadsexecutiveairport.com).

## Registering Your Aircraft With DOAV...What You Need to Know

Did you know that registering your aircraft and paying the one-time sales & use tax directly benefits the entire Commonwealth aviation system. Every dollar collected is returned to the system through the Aviation Special Fund; which directly supports airport promotion, air service development, the Small Aircraft Transportation System (SATS), general aviation airport security, facilities & equipment, airport maintenance, aircraft & airport licensing and DOAV administration.

All aircraft owned by residents of the Commonwealth, or owned by non-residents but based in Virginia more than 60 days in a 12-month period, are REQUIRED to be licensed.

Prior to licensing, the owner must have satisfied the 2% Aircraft Sales & Use Tax. The annual license fee for a private, noncommercial aircraft is \$5 and the fee for a private aircraft that is used for commercial purposes is \$10. This license decal must be displayed centered below the right-hand stabilizer on the fuselage, or immediately off the cabin entry door of the aircraft.

Aircraft built on or before December 31, 1945 and balloons may carry their license decals with the aircraft's other papers.

An aircraft license CANNOT be transferred to the new owner if the aircraft is sold and sellers are required to notify DOAV in writing when the transfer occurs as well as provide DOAV with the name and address of the new owner.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Toth at DOAV by calling 804-236-3637, or you can visit [www.doav.virginia.gov](http://www.doav.virginia.gov).



*Registering your aircraft with DOAV directly benefits the entire Commonwealth aviation system.*



*The view from the cockpit on approach to Middle Peninsula Airport.*

## Middle Peninsula Regional Airport Opens New 5,000 Foot Runway

The Middle Peninsula Airport recently opened its newly rehabilitated and lengthened 5,000-foot runway. This runway was previously 3,700 feet and its newly increased length will provide its users with safer takeoffs and landings and will also allow the airport to accommodate larger and faster aircraft. In addition, the runway numbers have been changed from 9 and 27, to 10 and 28 respectively.

The first phase of the runway rehabilitation and lengthening included replacing all the preexisting runway lighting which has increased the visibility of the runway, both at night and on cloudy, overcast days. The next phase will be a runway resurfacing project where new asphalt will replace the current surface.

The airport has also recently removed several obstructions such as trees and brush and even possible obstructions in the transition surface have been removed.

These most recent projects are just the latest in a long line of improvements since the Middle Peninsula Airport Authority took over the airport in 2003. Since that time, the first ever full time airport manager was hired; a new terminal, refueling facility, and airport beacon relocation and repainting occurred in 2005; a security fence and gates were installed in 2006; and twelve new T-hangars were built in 2007.

Middle Peninsula Airport is already seeing the benefits of a runway expansion, as several larger aircraft have moved their operations to the airport.

## Lynchburg Regional Airport Continues to Help Region Grow

Late last summer, Lynchburg Regional Airport opened its extended runway which added an additional 1,301 feet to the existing surface, making the total length 7,100 feet. This extension was the culmination of several years of planning, both logistical and financial. This five-phase project began in September 2003 with an environmental assessment and involved land acquisition, engineering & design, and ultimately the construction. This \$14.9 million project was funded through a combination of federal entitlement and discretionary funds, state entitlement funds, and Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) funds.



*The terminal at Lynchburg  
Regional Airport.*

With this runway extension and the addition of several new T-hangars a few years prior, Lynchburg Regional Airport continues to thrive and continues to provide general aviation and recreational services to the region. These services are provided by several operators, including Virginia Aviation, Falwell Aviation and Precision Windsports.

Virginia Aviation provides an array of aviation services, such as maintenance and avionics; flight training; AMT training; as well as charter and cargo service. Virginia Aviation's maintenance and avionics departments have full-time certified technicians on staff that can perform scheduled service needs as well as the experience to trouble-shoot unexpected mechanical and electrical problems. They are also a Federal Aviation Administration Part 141 flight school and ground school classes are conducted for all levels of flight training from Private to Air Transport Pilot certifications. Their aircraft training and rental fleet consists of Cessna 172's, a Piper Arrow and complex commercial and multi-engine training in a Piper Seminole and Cessna 414A. In addition to their ground instruction and flight training, Virginia Aviation also possesses on-site examining authority and a written testing center for all ratings as part of its FAA approved program. Graduates of Virginia Aviation pilot training programs are not required to take an FAA check ride for certification. Virginia Aviation also operates an approved Federal Aviation Administration Part 147 Airframe and Powerplant school where students can obtain their Federal Aviation Administration Mechanic certificate with airframe and powerplant ratings after 1900 hours of classroom and hands-on training from A&P mechanics.

Falwell Aviation provides commercial and FBO services to businesses and individuals including charter services, maintenance, flight training and cargo services. Falwell Aviation's charter services operate both piston and jet engine aircraft and they are a federally approved aircraft repair station that is equipped to service a wide variety of aircraft ranging from small Cessna 152s to mid-size jets. In addition, they are a federally approved flight school staffed with experienced flight instructors and can provide instruction on both piston and jet-engine aircraft.

Precision Windsports is a family-owned business that specializes in sales and training of powered light sport aircraft known as trikes. Trikes are flying machines that consist of a wing with a carriage secured below the wing via a pivot with the flight control through a single control bar attached directly to the wing of the aircraft.

In addition to all of the general and recreational aviation services, Lynchburg Regional Airport also provides regional carrier service through Delta Connection and US Airways Express.



### **WANT TO BE FEATURED IN AN UPCOMING EDITION OF VIRGINIA AVIATION?**

Submit your story ideas and/or event information to:

Jeff Baldwin  
Department of Aviation  
5702 Gulfstream Rd.  
Richmond, VA 23250-2422  
(804) 236-3631 ext. 146  
Or via e-mail at: [Jeff.Baldwin@doav.virginia.gov](mailto:Jeff.Baldwin@doav.virginia.gov)



*Chief Master Sergeant Grant Williams and Sergeant Harry Quinton of the Tuskegee Airmen.*

## Tuskegee Airmen Visit Virginia Aviation Museum

In early spring, history was alive and well at the Virginia Aviation Museum when two Tuskegee Airmen were on-hand to talk about their service to the United State during World War II. These men, Chief Master Sergeant Grant Williams and Sergeant Harry Quinton, spoke to several groups, including area school children, in celebration of Black History Month.

Williams was born in Halifax County, VA and was part of the Tuskegee Airmen for about a year and served in one of the group's flight support units, which included everyone from mechanics to the person who packed the parachutes.

Quinton, a Salisbury, MD native, served in the 477th bomber group of the Tuskegee Airmen as a mechanic after attending an aviation mechanic school in Trenton, NJ. This bomber group is often referred to as the 2nd phase of the Tuskegee experiment.

Both these men spoke about the impact that being part of the Tuskegee Airmen had on them and the country that they served and love.

"We were a group of men that had to fight for the right to fight for our country...a country that did not respect us," said Williams.

"The men of Tuskegee refused to be treated as second class citizens and be given second class positions in the armed forces," added Quinton. "We wanted to prove those who doubted us wrong."

By the time the academy shut its doors in 1946, nearly 1,000 men had trained to be pilots there and thousands more had served among its ranks.

The academy was established after Public Law 18 was passed by Congress in 1939 and pressure began to mount to integrate the armed forces. Tuskegee's first class of 12 cadets graduated on July 19th, 1941.

During the course of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen flew over 15,500 sorties including some 200 bomber escort missions. The Tuskegee Airmen never lost a bomber to enemy fighters at a time when the military was losing an average of 25 bombers a day, with a crew of 10 men each.

This group of men also were responsible for 409 enemy aircraft shoot downs and have hundreds of Flying Cross recipients among their ranks.

## Several Air Carriers Institute New Checked Bag Fees

Since early spring, several of the nation's largest air carriers have instituted new checked baggage fees for passengers who check more than one bag.

These fees began in early May for Continental, Delta, Northwest, United and US Air and in mid-May for AirTran. These fees can range from \$10 to \$25 each way, and are in addition to any fees imposed by the airlines for oversized and/or overweight bags.

These fees, however, do not apply to all travelers as those who purchase first-class or business-class tickets, or those passengers who are flying on frequent flyer rewards, will not be subject to these fees in most instances.

## DOAV May - June 2008 Calendar of Events

*May 27-28, 2008:* **Virginia Aviation Safety Week** presentation on the “Top 5 Mistakes Pilots Make” will be presented by Mark Grady at the Danville Regional Airport terminal building from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 27th and at the Virginia Aviation Museum at Richmond International Airport on May 28th. This safety week presentation is sponsored by The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Foundation and the Virginia Department of Aviation. For more information, contact Mike Lauranzon at [mike.lauranzon@doav.virginia.gov](mailto:mike.lauranzon@doav.virginia.gov).

*May 31-June 1, 2008:* **Southside Sky-Fest Air and Car Show** will be held at Danville Regional Airport beginning at 9 a.m. on both days. This event will include an air show, car and motorcycle show, concerts, hot air balloons, as well as robotics demonstrations. For more information, please contact Danville Regional Airport at 434-799-5110.

*June 1, 2008:* **New London Fly-In** will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature a country style breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. as well as an all-American lunch at noon and refreshments all day long. The fly-in will also have kid friendly activities including a “Bomb Drop,” and static aircraft and car displays. The rain-date for this event is June 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact David Miller, Airport Manager, at 540-874-7776, email [millerrv6@verizon.net](mailto:millerrv6@verizon.net) or visit the airport’s website at [www.newlondonairport.com](http://www.newlondonairport.com).

*June 14-15, 2008:* **Virginia Regional Festival of Flight** will be held at the Suffolk Executive Airport and will include a full-range of fly-in activities, such as forums, workshops, aviation vendor displays, aircraft demonstration flights and activities for children. For more information, please visit the event’s website at [www.VirginiaFlyIn.org](http://www.VirginiaFlyIn.org).

*June 14, 2008:* **5th Annual Bluegrass Family Day and Fly-In** will start at 8 a.m. at the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport and promises to be a day of fun for the entire family. Admission to the event is free, however, donations will be accepted. This event will feature children’s games, live Bluegrass bands and parking lot picking. There will also be a pancake breakfast and lunch provided by the West Point Volunteer Fire and Rescue, skydivers, airplane rides and displays of fly-in aircraft. All proceeds from this event will benefit the American Cancer Society in memory of Mary Ann Clements and Shirley Norman. For more information, please contact Tim Gaylord, Airport Manager, at 804-785-9725, email [tgaylord@fly-fyj.com](mailto:tgaylord@fly-fyj.com) or visit [www.fly-fyj.com](http://www.fly-fyj.com).

*June 14, 2008:* **Become a Pilot Family Day and Aviation Display** will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (National Air and Space Museum). This free event will feature educational activities and an outdoor aviation display. Attendees will be able to walk around the tarmac and examine over 50 visiting vintage, recreational, military, and homebuilt aircraft, as well as get a chance to talk to pilots and find out what skills you need to fly. Inside the museum, they will be given an opportunity to test their piloting skills in flight simulators; meet model airplane experts; and hear a variety of guest speakers. For more information, please visit [www.nasm.si.edu/becomeapilot](http://www.nasm.si.edu/becomeapilot).

*June 14, 2008:* **Virginia Aviation Museum Air Fair 2008** will be held at the Virginia Aviation Museum at Richmond International Airport. For more information, please contact Dave Reisenwitz at [dreisenwitz@smv.org](mailto:dreisenwitz@smv.org) or visit [www.vam.smv.org](http://www.vam.smv.org).

*June 20-22, 2008:* **Air Power Over Hampton Roads** will be held at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, VA. For more information, please visit [www.langleyairshow.com](http://www.langleyairshow.com).

## Norfolk International Airport Offers Two New Nonstop Flights

In early May, two new nonstop flights began service at Norfolk International Airport. These flights, a Northwest Airlines flight to Memphis, TN and a Southwest Airlines flight to Nashville, TN will provide travelers additional choices in Hampton Roads.

This new Northwest flight will depart Norfolk at 7:35 a.m. and arrive in Memphis at 8:45 a.m. and the inbound flight to Norfolk will depart Memphis at 7:20 p.m. and arrive at 10:29 p.m. These flights will be operated by Pinnacle Airlines and will utilize a 50-seat CRJ 200 aircraft. Prior to May, Northwest Airlines had been serving Norfolk through its Detroit and Minneapolis/St. Paul hubs.

This new service will provide travelers convenient connections to more than 1,000 cities in more than 160 countries.

In addition, the new Southwest flight will depart Norfolk at 6:50 a.m. and arrive in Nashville at 7:50 a.m. with an inbound flight departing Nashville at 3:50 p.m. and arriving in Norfolk at 6:45 p.m.

Norfolk International Airport has been serving the Greater Hampton Roads area and northeastern North Carolina since the 1920's and currently offers nearly 200 arrivals and departures daily to major cities throughout the United States. Norfolk International Airport presently ranks in the country's top 65 airports in terms of passengers served annually.

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## DOAV Newsletter Now Available Online

The Virginia Department of Aviation's newsletter, "Virginia Aviation", is now available online in a PDF version and can be viewed by visiting [www.doav.virginia.gov](http://www.doav.virginia.gov).

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If you are interested in learning more about what is going on in the Department of Aviation, please call our office at (804) 236-3624 or our Sponsor Hotline at (800) 292-1034. Visit our website for updates on future events at:  
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Commonwealth of Virginia  
Department of Aviation  
5702 Gulfstream Road  
Richmond, VA 23250-2422

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